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(Deputy Commissioner, State GST Department, Ernakulam)
























































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## 17

# An Epilogue in Memory of dear friend Alex George 

## Justice M R Hariharan Nair

Through Jacques, Shakespeare said in AS YOU LIKE IT. "All the world is a stage, and all the men and women merely players. They have their exits and entrances, And one man in his time plays many parts."

Yes, in our short life, we meet many such players. They make their entrance and after a short while simply exit from our mind. But some chosen men do not exit at all from our minds. They dwell in our minds leaving indelible memories of theirs throughout our lifetime.

My meet with Adv. Alex George was one such encounter. It all started in 1995 when I took over as District and Sessions Judge at Kottayam. The Bar of Kottayam is famous for its qualities. Qualities of a Bar, in turn, are the sum total of the quality of its members. Strength of the Bar is their synergy. Basic qualities of social life, knowledge of law, commitment to the profession, outlook towards the society, honesty in dealings with their clients and above all commitment to the institution of judiciary by not misleading the court of their practice at any cost, are all the basic indicators of a good Advocate. At Kottayam I found that majority of the Advocates belong to this elite class. And among them of course, is the shining star-Mr. Alex George.

Alex was a busy civil lawyer and presented cases efficiently and honestly. But that by itself, does not make him great. Nor does it enable creation of any personal bond. Judicial tradition demands that the Judges keep aloof from members of the Bar so that fake stories and baseless allegations would not be cooked up alleging partiality and favouritism on
the part of the judge who should actually be like caesar＇s wife．But then， official needs themselves sometimes create occasions for close interac－ tion between Judges and the Bar．In the case of Mr．Alex George，it came in the form of a circular from the High Court requiring that Adalaths of the District Legal Services Authrority should be organized in every district with active participation of judicial officers and Advocates and also that there should be legal literacy camps arranged at every Panchayath／Municipality in the District．District Judge，as Chairman of the District level Legal services authority was to organize these camps and adalaths．And of course，the Bar is an integral part of such events and their co operation is indispensable for success of the events．

Talks by expert Advocates on different branches of law will be an essential part of such legal literacy camps．Subjects will be legal topics which citizens would be forced to encounter in their day to day life． Consumer Protection laws，Motor accident claims，Family laws，com－ plaints to Police and follow up action thereon etc．will be taught there．I， as District Judge，was one who meticulously followed the instructions from the High Court and therefore decided that there should be full day literacy camps arranged at different parts of Kottayam every month．To save time，I connected them with the routine annual inspections of sub－ ordinate courts which I had to perform in the official course of business． My scheme was this．After inspection of court in the forenoon，there would be a preparatory conference arranged in the afternoon with Panchayath representatives and prospective sponsors where the date of the literacy camp of that station to be held in the coming month（nor－ mally on second Saturdays）would be fixed and subjects for lecture fi－ nalized．

One of the important aspects for success of these camps is finding of meritorious faculty．Teaching is an art and vast knowledge of the subject is not the key．An effective class will be one that the audience would earnestly listen to and for that the presentation of the subject should be in simple language and in an attractive and appealing manner． My search for such faculty brought Sri．Alex George to the limelight．I noticed that he was competent to speak on diverse subjects and that his classes were much liked by the participants．Naturally，he became a regular teacher in all the literacy camps arranged in different parts of the district．We became friends very soon；but I took special care to
ensure that safe distance was maintained so that opportunity for creating stories and allegations would not be there. Very soon our interactions touched upon personal matters as well and I found that Mr. Alex George was a true Christian in letter and spirit and that every action on his part was guided by the Almighty. Sincerity, punctuality, commitment to clients and to court were the sterling qualities that he was blessed with. His advocacy was blended with faith. After 3 years of service at Kottayam, I went on transfer as Registrar (Vigilance) of the High Court; but whenever I had occasion to touch Kottayam on my official or personal tours, we used to meet again.

Alex has a younger sister by name Soosan Varghese besides younger brother Zacharia George who like Alex, is an Advocate much sought after. Behind every successful man, there will be a woman, they say. Very true in the case of Alex too. His wife Maya Kuriakose, a college teacher stood behind him like iron pillar in his good days and in his unhealthy last years. Two of the three daughters of Mr. Alex are abroad with their husbands and working there. The youngest, Tania is well known to me. She is Alex's contribution to the judiciary and now works as Munsiff at Thrissur.

By the time his daughters were married, I had retired from service. But I could participate in the marriage of two of the daughters along with my wife. When Alex had a stroke and started living in Ernakulam, I used to visit him oftener and then he opened up. His father was a pious person and had brought up his children in strict discipline. He (father) was so close to God that he even knew the date when he was to leave this world. On the previous day, he summoned all his children to home; had a feast with all of them; bid good bye and then went to bed never to wake up again.

Alex had also encountered miracles and blessings of God on several crucial occasions. He believed that an extension of life term was given to him after recovery from the surgery on condition that he should spend the rest of his life in prayers and out of the profession. Accordingly, he distanced himself from the profession and spent his last days in prayers and in writing.

Alex believed that Jesus had intervened in different stages of his life. One such instance was the purchase of a plot for constructing his house.

He had the desire；but not the money．Expecting to gather resources，he entered into an agreement to purchase land；but even a week before the last date for execution of the sale deed，he could not muster enough funds．He prayed for a solution and then a miracle happened．A friend of his，working in the Gulf suddenly turned up and made a strange re－ quest．He had kept a few lakhs of rupees for purchase of land or the like；but the deal did not go through．This friend was to go back to the gulf on the next day．The favour required was to keep the money that he had brought which should be returned to him only during his next annual visit．Alex was surprised and told the friend that his arrival was a divine mission in so far as Alex was in imminent need of funds for buy－ ing the land and here is a fund delivered at his door with assurance that it was not needed only after a full year．The friend who knew Alex very well allowed him to spend the money for the purchase of the plot．Re－ payment would be due only next year．It was as though the Almighty sent an emissary with the badly needed funds to him in order to facilitate the deal．

About 3 years back Alex disclosed to me the fact that he was blessed with an opportunity to meet God following intense prayer on one occa－ sion．With eyes wide open he could see Jesus standing in front of him．A rare privilege indeed！I pressed him to write about this in his book；but for reasons undisclosed to me，that chapter was not there when I saw the proof of the book that he sent to me for writing the foreword about an year laer．

Alex had the privilege of grooming up a large fleet of juniors．The publication in which this prologue would appear，I understand，is one brought out by these worthy juniors who wanted to pay tributes to their beloved senior in the form of a book containing sweet reminiscences． Very appreciable gesture indeed．

I understand that the book authored by Alex would also be published by the family members shortly．Better late than never．May be that book would find wide readership and enlighten the readers as to how one should live a model life full of service to the society and to the pleasure of the Almighty！

Dear Alex，you are not with us physically now；but thoughts about your great and fruitful life will be with us till the end！

## 18

# Adv. Alex George: My memoirs 

## K P Thankachan

(Additional District Judge,Palakkad)
Advocate Alex George was an erudite lawyer. His face always glow in my cherished memories as Sub Judge in Kottayam. He had conducted many cases before me. I still remember my first meeting with Alex George. One day while I was in chamber, a well read lady staff informed that a lawyer resembles Aristotle wants to see me. Her weird comparison provoked my curiosity. But when Adv. Alex George walked in, I realised that his bearded face has slight resemblance with the face of Aristotle.

Adv. Alex George had always captured the nuances and human complexities of law. As a lawyer, his head and mind were always focused on his brief. His arguments were a model of lucidity. He was prepared to use the law for its true purpose in the interest of fairness and justice. He had a tremendous feel for ordinary people. I remember a case conducted by him before me regarding tenancy. He argued the case for three days. He started in a slow voice and pace, and maintained the same momentum till the end. He was never short tempered. He never provoked his opponents nor got provoked by them.

His intellectual range was so vast covering most of the branches of law. He was a role model for the juniors. His style of argument was lengthy and he used to argue each and every points in its minute details. He never tried to argue with the Court. He had defended, with full vigor, many prestigious hospitals and reputed doctors in medical negligence cases, but he was very empathetic towards the victims.

During the last months of my tenure in Kottayam, he had been hospitalized for his illness. But after recovery he came and met me.

He told me that he had a miraculous recovery. He appeared weak at that time, but he was ready to conduct many listed matters. He was definitely a true lawyer who took tremendous efforts for his clients. His life and work will provide inspirations for young generation in Kottayam Bar. Aristotle once said "the dead are more blessed and happier than the living, and to die is to return to one's real home." I think his death is no different.

## 19

# A Man of sharp Intellect <br> K T Chacko IAS (Rtd) 

(Ex. Director General of Foreign Trade)
The untimely demise of Advocate Alex George has indeed left a deep void. Since Mr Alex had abiding faith in God Almighty, he truly believed that death is only a transfer to life eternal from this temporal world. Well before his Departure, he had shared with me his experience of being in the presence of God and he ,in fact, drew a sketch of his vision of God as appeared to him. He was entirely at peace with himself. He could fulfill all his major responsibilities of educating and settling his three wonderful children. Ofcourse, his wife Maya and the children would always feel the void.

My wife and I knew of Alex through our association with his mother who prior to her wedding was our neighbour. However, our personal acquaintance with Alex started in mid- Seventies when he came to Indore , Madhya Pradesh for his M.A \& LLB programme. We were then at Shujalpur and later on in Bhopal and Alex used to visit us, as often as possible. When Alex returned to Kerala on successful completion of his studies we remained in touch and the friendship bloomed, over time.

Undoubtedly, Alex had a sharp intellect. Even though, he was well settled in the practice of law in Kerala, he continued his quest for widening his horizons. When I was working in Government of India as Director General of Foreign Trade, and was handling global trade issues, Alex explored with me the feasibility of studying trade law and specialising in that knowledge sphere. However, his constraints of leaving Kerala due to personal and professional reasons, prevented him from pursuing that interest.

When we remember Alex, the thought which comes uppermost is his care and love for fellow beings. He agitated against injustice. His chosen profession gave him ample opportunities to give justice to his clients. The Bhopal Gas tragedy happened while I was working in Bhopal and Alex used to interact with me on the progress in ensuring accountability and the survivors getting due compensation.

Alex fulfilled his role as a Family man, admirably. Like any parent, he had aspirations for his children. However, I understand that he left the crucial decision making on matters such as what courses to pursue and what profession to choose etc ;to the children. Thus the children grew up as responsible individuals with decision making capacity and balanced outlook.

The success he achieved in legal profession is known to all his colleagues, friends and acquaintances. Over and above, he would be remembered for his warmth, care and concern and his sense of optimism.

May he dwell in Heaven.

## 20

## A Person loved by Jesus Christ

Adv. Amrit Lal Saha<br>(High Court of Tripura, Agartala)

I cannot believe that a good friend of mine, Mr. Alex George, is no more. When I first tried to write a few words about my friend Mr. Alex George, I could not resist tears from my eyes. We met for the first time at a National Consumer Convention at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi in 1985. Thereafter we met at some events on Consumer Protection in Delhi. Since about 1990, we were in touch only over telephone. He became more involved in legal profession, but always had consumer welfare in his heart.

In 2011, I invited him to participate in the National Seminar on Telecom Services organized by Consumers' Protection Association, Agartala, Tripura. He readily accepted the invitation. He came to Tripura with his better half, his wife, Smt. Maya. Alex George Chaired one session and delivered a speech which was liked by all. He spoke from personal experiences. I still preserve some of his photographs of 2011.

Mr. Alex George was also a resource person in the Online Internship Programme on Fast Consumer Justice along with his wife, Smt. Maya which was meant for the Law Students of Tripura Govt. Law College and ICFAI University Tripura in 2021.

Loved by his family members and friends, Alex George was a pure, spiritual person. We have lost a great friend and an honest, kind hearted person. He was like an innocent child and was loved by Jesus Christ. His departure is a loss to his family-wife and children, to the consumer rights' community, society at large and a personal loss to me. He will be remembered as a light in the society and will continue to inspire us, through his good deeds and kind words.

## 21

## Remembering a Friend

## Dharmendra Singh

We met through a common friend, for the first time, at his office in Kottayam 5 years ago. He was a perfect gentleman lawyer. To converse with Alex was both an intellectual treat and a learning experience. This first encounter marked the beginning of our longstanding professional friendship and collaboration.

In addition to his devotion to his work, Alex always found time for his colleagues and his friends. He treated everyone with the highest amount of respect and love and showed great enthusiasm in all that he did. His actions, friendship, and almost never-ending smile instilled a sense of happiness and positivity that words alone can't describe.

Having worked with Alex closely over the last few years, I learned much about his love for his family. They were never far from his thoughts in everything he did.

How does one express the amazing essence and spirit of Alex, his generosity, uncompromising belief in all that is good, and unwavering commitment to family and friends? Words, even the very best of words, cannot pay tribute or truly capture the sense of loss.

The loss is there - tangible and real within everyone who were fortunate to know him - but Alex exemplified life, love, kindliness, and an irrepressible belief and faith in seeing the best in everything, even loss.

You had come into my life as a blessing, but I could not hold onto it for long. My dear friend, I can never forget you. You will always be missed and loved. Rest in peace, dear friend.

## 22

# Honouring Alex Uncle: A Tribute to Friendship and Prayer 

Amal P Mathews<br>(Assistant Professor, Assumption College, Changanassery)

Adv. Alex George uncle and my father Adv. P. M. Mathews were classmates at Indore Christian College where they studied law. Throughout their three years of college life, they resided at Johari Hostel in Indore, which comprised 15 rooms and was run by the students themselves, including the mess management. These memories with Alex uncle are still cherished by my father. Despite their busy legal practices, my father remembers Alex as a sincere friend from 1975.

I had the chance to meet Alex Uncle during a Scouts and Guides meeting held at Devi Vilasam Girls High School, Kumaranalloor, Kottayam. There, I met Alex uncle's second daughter, Ann Thania, (Additional Munsiff, Thrissur) for the Guides meeting and training. I still remember how we both exclaimed with delight that our fathers were lawyers. That was the beginning of a long friendship between the daughters whose fathers were LL.B classmates. Though Thania and I studied in different law schools, we later pursued our Masters degree in law together at NALSAR University, Telangana. Our initial careers as Assistant Professor of Law at MATS Law School, Raipur, Chhattisgarh \& School of Law, Christ University, Bengaluru provided me the opportunity to observe Alex uncle more closely. I was often surprised by how his long telephone conversations with his daughter, Thania, would end with a prayer. This reflected the prominence of prayer in his life and how he passed it on to the next generation. One thing I am indebted to

Alex uncle is my present habit of journal writing, which I acquired through Thania and was encouraged by her father to do so daily. It takes a lot of burden off your shoulders and helps you start afresh. I had the chance to travel with Alex uncle and Thania many times. During these travels, he would share his legal experiences, discuss current affairs, our relationship with God, and more.

My sister, younger than me by a year, also has fond memories of Alex uncle. His gentle demeanor and warm affection for all and sundry is something she had often discussed with me. Being a postgraduate in English Literature, she was closer to Alex Uncle's wife, Prof Dr. Maya (former Head of the English Department, Baselius College, Kottayam). Her visits to meet Maya teacher at their home are tinged with the warm hospitality accorded by both uncle and aunt. Often, Alex Uncle would take up the initiative to say a small prayer placing the needs of each and everyone gathered before bidding farewell. Those prayers were a strong testimonial of his unwavering faith in the Almighty, thick and thin.

Alex uncle, you will always be remembered for your friendship, goodness, and guidance, as well as for emphasizing the importance of prayer in daily life. We know that you're among the Chosen in God's paradise and may we be strengthened by your sterling example to follow His footsteps with fervour and devotion.

## 23

# Resonating Mantras 

Deepa George<br>(Lecturer, Statistics<br>Christ College, Bangalore)

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life, it turns what we have into enough and more"
-Melody Beattie
I am Mrs. Deepa George, wife of Adv. George Joseph. The privilege that I had as Mrs. George is in meeting and knowing the Late Alex George. There are lots of memories which I would like to share about our beloved Alex Sir, but I am just wrapping them with a few significant ones.

The first interaction I had with him was after our wedding, the gift that we got from Alex and Xavier was a Mixie and he explained why it was a perfect gift. He said "we want you two to blend well together as the rice and urad dal, blend and become one and form a new entity where each item loses its original form and blends to form a new one.

I had the privilege to meet Sir on several occasions both in his residence at Kottayam and Ernakulam and also in our residence at Bangalore, and every time I met, I felt that he gave importance to family life, and he in his casual talks always gave me some tips or mantras as I recall to lead a Christian family life.

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I hope all of you would have heard of the Johari window，a framework that helps one to understand one＇s consciousness and help us also to know or understand others．In one of our meetings，sir shared one such window with me to learn about life，especially life with an advocate and how it had four stages．Stage－1，No Case，no money．Stage－ 2 In Some cases，no money．Stage－3，Cases and money，and Stage 4 －No case but money there are lots of struggles that the advocates have to undergo in all these stages，and the other half must be there to support them to go on with this life in a peaceful manner．As I heard it from the horse＇s mouth，it made my life easier to accept things in life．The next one that I have got from his life is about the divine economy that－＂God will never be a debtor＂，this word still rings in my mind．I＇ve never worried about money in my life if we have given it to one in need and I firmly know that God will never be a debtor，he will give it to me when I＇m in need．Alex sir＇s exhortations were always a great inspiration for me，his prayers were always a great blessing in our life．We truly miss him，and his prayers．I can testify that Alex sir was the happiest person， even in his days of illness，when he heard that my daughter Yadira was selected to the University of Warwick in the UK，we will never forget the prayers that he had made over the phone when my daughter informed him about it．I am sure that Alex sir is still living in our minds，inspiring， and guiding all in my family．

We believe that his prayers and blessings are there for us always． Thanks to this wonderful soul who was part of our life，whose blessing was there for us throughout．

I thankfully and gratefully acknowledge the excitement beloved Alex sir expressed in each stage of advancement in our life．

## 24

## Reminiscing Chacha

## Adv. George Zachariah Eruthickel

Reminiscing, be it of Individuals, Events or Things, is a process, which is essentially a journey of the person, who is making the same, to his or her own inner mind, and which eventually carries memoirs of autobiographical touch. Therefore, it is only natural that, memories from my childhood days are coming forth, while I am penning down the reminiscences about my brother, whom we the siblings, i.e., my sister and myself, were calling with love as 'Chacha'.

Since Chacha was 13 years elder than me, my first memories about him were of, seeing him with a small bundle of books with a green coloured plastic outer cover in his hands, and going somewhere, and coming back home, as I was not at an age to realise what it meant by and what for a College is.

Being the youngest one in the house, I had to seek permission for doing anything special, from everyone else in the family; however, the same status enabled me to get all the privileges, which the youngest ones used to get from the affectionate parents and siblings. Being the eldest son in the family, Chacha was of a caring and loving nature, though he appeared to be serious and hot tempered during those teenage days. I still remember his initiative in decorating the house with balloons, metal stars, coloured paper garlands etc., on a Christmas eve of my childhood days, which inspired me also to take part in it. Since our father (late Sri. E. A. George), being a Central government servant and mostly was working at various faraway places, and our mother (late Smt. Annamma George), being a school teacher, in the nearby school, where we all the three children, were her students too, were not getting enough time and
opportunity to take me out for entertainments，Chacha and my elder sister（Susan）were taking me out for short journeys to nearby places， during my childhood days．Whenever there were small problems for me， which appeared to be big ones，during those childhood days of me，I used to approach both Chacha and my sister，whom I have been calling ＇Aunty＇，without knowing the difference in degrees of relationships，which a name or word makes．

While so，Chacha left for his studies to Indore in the state of Madhya Pradesh，when I was a student of IIIrd standard．Though the preparations for his journey gave me much excitement initially，I started to be gloomy while the date for his journey was reaching nearer，as I was told that，he cannot come frequently home from the faraway place，where he was going；my sorrow grew intense day by day．I do remember that，I obtained a small photograph of Chacha from him，covered it with a small paper， and kept it pouched under my pillow，and I used to take out the photograph and was looking upon it for many days，after he left home；and that，I was hospitalised for some days for fever，within a short while after Chacha left for indore．However，letters intimating Chacha＇s homecoming during his vacations gave feeling of excitement to me．

After completing his studies at Indore，Chacha came back home， while I was studying in the VIIth Standard．Thereafter，Chacha was actively involved in social and cultural activities for some time，even before he started his legal practice．I do remember his active involvement in the publication of a literary journal in Malayalam，titled＇Kerala Samskaram＇，of which the patron was the renowned literary personality of the Malayalam language，as well as the＂Jnanapeedom＂laurate late Sri．Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai．Chacha was also taking classes at certain educational institutions，where post graduation and other courses were conducted，as parallel educational institutions，commonly known as Parallel Colleges．During those times，I was a High School student，and though Chacha was strictly monitoring my studies，he used to take me for cinemas to Talkies at Kottayam，as there was only one Cinema Theatre，and that too with the limited amenities at Pampady，where we were residing．

Chacha enrolled as a lawyer in the year 1980，and started legal practice in association with the renowned legal firm at Kottayam，named＇Joseph
and Poulose Lawyers'. The rich experience, which he got from that firm, which was led at that time, by late Advocate Sri. K. G. Joseph (Retd. District Judge) and late Advocate Sri. P. C. Abraham, as well as the dedication to the cause of the legal profession, epitomized with the blessings of the God Almighty, earned him reputation as a good lawyer. Since Chacha was engaged with the social activities, he could make use of his experience in the legal profession for doing good for the society. He was actively involved in the activities of 'The Consumer Protection And Guidance Society of India', which was one of the pioneer registered organisations in Kerala, working in the field of protection of the rights of consumers; and thus, he got invitation from the Ministry of Civil Supplies of the Central Government, which Was dealing with Consumer affairs, to participate in the lawmaking process for the welfare of the consumers, which ultimately led to the formation of the enactment, known as 'The consumer protection Act'.

I joined for Degree Course at Baselius College, Kottayam, in the year 1985, and by the year 1987, when my course was in the final stage, my brother along with Advocate Sri. T. M. Xavierkutty, who was his colleague in 'Joseph and Poulose Lawyers', started a new law firm, named, 'Alex and Xavier Lawyers'. Gradually the new legal firm flourished very well, and many young lawyers associated with the firm.

Though my brother didn't have any opposition, in my studying for the Law Degree, he was not prompting me to join the legal profession, for which, the reason I decipher is, his wish for a peaceful life for me, as he underwent much strain, which is involved in the profession, which however was not seemed to be a matter of botheration of his personal life, as he appeared to have considered it only as a natural corollary of the profession, which he seemed to be enjoying. However, he never was concerned about the lucrative element of the profession, as it is a known fact that, he conducted so many cases with no fee or with little fee, as Chacha considered the legal profession as an avenue to help many. After the advent of Family Courts, it appears that, shockingly the attitude towards relationships inside family became different from that was earlier; and as a result, the family relationships are considered to be too formal. However, the intervention of intermediaries to resolve the issues between the husband and the wife, has proved to be very effective
and such mediatory efforts in many cases result in cordial family relationships．Chacha put much efforts，spending much of his time and energy to unite couple in the cases of family disputes，which were brought before him，and by the Grace of God，he could unite more than hundred families．

I started legal practice，after the enrolment in the year 1995，with Chacha．There were，five junior colleagues at the time when，I joined the Office of＇Alex and Xavier Lawyers＇．His approach and methods of conducting cases helped me a lot in getting experience in the profession． I shifted practice to Ernakulam，where I joined with the Law Firm，＇Cochin Law Chambers＇as Chacha was in close acquaintance with the partners of the firm，Advocate（late）Sri．Mathew Zachariah and Advocate Sri． Koshy George．Chacha used to appear before the High Court of Kerala also，and got an office in the Advocate Chamber Complex，near the High Court．He conducted cases in the Supreme Court as well．He served also as a Member of the erst while＇Monopolies restrictive Trade Practices Commission＇for the South Indian States．

Chacha was a dedicated legal professional with studious nature，and thus put efforts to acquire knowledge of the vast subject of law in its depth．However，Chacha considered his life as a mission to do many things for the fellow beings，making use of the talents，which God Almighty had given him．Therefore，even in spite of the busy schedules of the professional life，he found out time to maintain warm relationships with those of family circles，good old friends from the time of childhood days etc．，as well as to create new friendships with people of different strata of the society，so as to stretch out his helping hand in which ever mode it is required，to the needy．

God Almighty had granted Chacha a vision about life as well as the wish and will power to accomplish it，which he could realize in reliance with HIM．

I am concluding this memoir，by praising the God Almighty for gifting Chacha to us，i．e．，me，my sister，our family members，and many，not only as a brother，but also as a guide and as an inspirer．

## 25

## A great source of Inspiration <br> Ann Theja Alex

Appa was and will be always a great source of inspiration for us his dear daughters and our families. Appa came from a humble background, and put his prayerful hard work and dedication into everything that he did. Life was not easy for Appa, but he faced all problems and difficulties with prayers. Appa's greatest asset was his ardent faith in Almighty God. However busy be the day, he always started it with a prayer and ended it with a prayer. Every step that Appa took in life was a prayerful one. He had a positive attitude towards life, and that came from his firm faith. He always encouraged us to surmount hurdles with prayer. He trusted each one of us that he allowed us the freedom to choose our own career paths. Appa forced each one of us to move away from home for studies and jobs so that we would become independent individuals. His trust in God was so strong that he always believed that wherever his daughters are, God is protecting them. Appa used to say that each of us should be a different example in our own professional sectors. He believed in being the change that you wish to see in this world.

Appa never got dazzled by worldly assets, and kept saying how nothing we conquered in this world would help in eternal world. He was particular about instilling this value in all three of us right from childhood. Treating every individual with due respect and showing genuine interest in the wellbeing of people around us were extremely important to Appa. We have seen his eyes filling with tears whenever he would listen to the hardships of others, and he would try his best to do whatever little he could to alleviate their pain. He also showed us that we cannot be true

Christians if we shut our eyes and ears to the needy around us. He put forth his belief and values before anything else.

Appa found time to take us to vacations, celebrate all important days with family, drop off and pick us from the school, have at least one meal with the family and above all pray with the family. Despite being a busy man, Appa was always there to listen to all our concerns. He valued human relationships as an extension of his spiritual relationship to God. Whenever we travelled to any place, Appa would always make it a point to visit all of our close relatives/friends near the destination and on the way. Appa made so many friends throughout his life, and took genuine effort in maintaining those relationships.

Appa could crack a joke and make an entire room laugh. It was really interesting to see how Appa put a humorous touch to even otherwise difficult situations. Appa was an eloquent speaker, was really talented in drawing, painting, writing, mimicry, acting, and taught us that we should use our talents for the glory of Almighty God. Appa knew our temperaments so well that he could understand what we were going through even without long conversations. When we talk to him over phone he would easily grasp a tone change and would make sure we were feeling positive at the end of that conversation. Appa had a very close connection with each of his grandchildren, and would spend hours talking to them over video calls.

There is not a single day in our lives where we will not miss Appa's worldly presence. We are grateful to Appa that he instilled in us the seeds of faith and hope from childhood, and that is what that keep us going during these difficult times. We can each feel Appa's everlasting prayers encircling us. Appa went through a similar phase in his life when his dear Pappa (our Appachen) departed to his heavenly abode quite unexpectedly. Appa handled the situation with prayers though Appa missed Appachen's worldly presence. He showed us how a Christian should react to departure of a loved father. We are glad that each one of us have told Appa in several occasions how his dedication to bringing us up in true Christian faith has helped us in every arena of our lives. The same faith is what is helping us now as well. All glory and praise always should go to only Almighty God as Appa always taught us; we thank God for blessing us with a loving Appa.

## 26

## A Correcting Force

## Ann Thania Alex

Words are few when emotions surmount. Writing about our Appa is not easy, when the reality strikes that his physical presence is not available with us anymore. At the same time, we are assured of his spiritual presence which comes from the sheer faith that he imparted in us ever since our childhood. Our father was an ordinary person who lived a not so ordinary life for 67 years. Appa was a very genuine person, who never kept any facades in any relationship. He was transparent enough to share his happiness, tears, anguish and hopes with those who met him. We used to have long conversations with Appa and Amma during the evening prayer and dinner time. Appa always made us realise and thank God for the opportunity to praise His name together as a family. Even after we left homes for study and work commitments, he always insisted on a common prayer time, whenever we came back together. Today, when we make our children sit down for prayer, Appa's singing of prayer songs reverberates in our ears.

During family time that accompanies prayer or later during dinner, Appa would discuss the lives that he witnessed around him or would share some instance that happened during the day. Appa always insisted that we three were brought up in a very realistic way, with our eyes, ears and arms open to the cause of the needy. He never wanted us to be carried away by the pomp and glitz of life and encouraged us to make investments for eternity. Appa was a correcting force in our lives, who would bluntly criticize us when he found our behaviour unacceptable. He was always keen to see that his daughters maintain the right stride and a prayerful attitude to life. Appa always encouraged us to never
give up and to stand up for the cause that we believe in. He taught us to take decisions through prayers and not to rely on human wisdom.

Despite his busy schedule and demanding commitments, Appa prepared speeches for us and taught us to deliver them convincingly, selected poems for our recitation events, taught us acting, took us for Scouts and Guides camps and many summer camps. Appa took us to all platforms possible to make sure that we get to overcome stage fear and shyness, develop a positive personality so that we are equipped to face life. He loved to hear his girls singing together, so much so that, everytime, we came together, he insisted that we should render Carnatic vocals together. He gave us platforms to fail, fail and fail till we succeed. He ensured that we embrace failures with grace and used to take us to congratulate the winners. Appa ensured that we maintained respect for our teachers, deep within our hearts. He would take us to obtain blessings of our gurus whenever we embarked on a new venture.

Appa encouraged us to give way for others, as he practised in his life. Appa was driven by the Holy Spirit to take decisions, that looked stupid in the eyes of many others. He constantly reminded us that it is good to stay stupid to the society, as wordly wisdom is trivial before the eyes of God. Appa used to always ask us to envisage our lives in the larger plan of God and to submit to His Will. We three have been largely blessed on account of the sacrifices that were made by both Appa and Amma. We keep trying to imbibe the same in our lives too.

While human frailities always exist, Appa took a different track for he did not display any ego to express a deep apology whenever he went wrong. We were often surprised to see the blind faith that Appa had in our Heavenly Father. Almighty God benevolently answered Appa's prayers everytime, including when his wished to make a graceful exit to eternity. Appa always reminisced his roots, struggles in the life journey and how God provided for him in the midst of all dearths. He lived from his heart and not from his brain. Appa was never bothered about earthly investments and tried his best to do whatever help he could for those in need. He was more than glad to share any piece of information or knowledge or any opportunity that came across his way with others, which is not very common. Both our parents always monitored our
behaviour very keenly to see that we transform to become good human beings at the first place.

Appa had a huge circle of friends and and he took serious efforts to maintain the friendship. He had friends and acquaintances from all walks of life. I remember how he had long-term acquaintances with potters at the Kottayam railway station to priests, media persons, politicians and justices. Appa never stooped before anyone to impress them for any favours and was always candid with regard to his emotions and conversations. Appa never maintained any demarcation in friendships, depending upon their differing life status. He was more than willing to give his time to many as a good counsellor.

Appa was passionate about the profession. He partnered the office with Xavierkkutty Uncle (Adv. T.M. Xavierkutty) to start Alex and Xavier on July 1, 1987. Both of them shared a camaraderie, as they both started as juniors at M/s Joseph and Paulose, that continued till Appa's departure. As an eloquent lawyer, Appa simply loved to analyse the legal provisions and truly found enjoyment in practising the profession. I vividly remember the days during which I have woken up to see that Appa preparing for an argument or draft a document as early as 3:30-4 AM in the morning, while he may have had hit the bed only past midnight. He started the day by reading from the Holy Bible, both at home and at office. He was interested about the possibilities of law and often discussed with us about the music of law and the intersectionality of law with several other subjects.

Appa was a perfectionist with regard to the profession. He never compromised his quality for the limitations of time and the financial capacity of the client and was keen to see that his juniors lived up to his professional expectations for them. There have been instances of Appa scolding his juniors including me, when he felt that we did not put our best efforts into the situation. He was so proud and genuinely happy to see that his juniors were presenting good work and are making their own niche in profession, government sector, academics and judicial services. Many of them are doing so well in the profession by the Grace of God and by the blessings of their seniors. The office bearers of Alex and Xavier, have been of magnanimous help throughout Appa's life and career, especially Venu Uncle and Thomas Uncle.

Appa was a man of wide reading and voluminous experiences in life. As a promising youngster back then, he had the good fortune to be associated with famous writers such as Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillai sir etc. For his avid reading skills, he was often taken by the librarians at Pampady library to purchase new books for the library.

Appa stood different as he was willing to put others' interest before his and took efforts to make sure that their concerns were taken care off. He was bold enough to move away from the conventional wisdom and always encouraged us to explore the unknown meadows by faith in God. I still remember a phone call that I made with my parents in 2011 from Guangzhou Airport in China. As a student, I was given the opportunity to participate in a summer program. Due to language barriers, I found myself stranded in the midst of a set of people who could only speak Chinese, without any food, for nine long hours. I shared the situation with Appa over the phone. He exhorted me to just pray and reminded me of God's promise and told me that God will provide food for me at the airport, just like how he provided for Prophet Elijah in the Holy Bible.

Appa always believed in quality. By the blessings of the Almighty and his forefathers, Appa lived a full life and left the physical world at the right time to be with his Heavenly Father. While Appa's physical absence cannot be compensated ever in our lives, we are sure that he is praying for us. We are truly grateful to God Almighty for simply blessing us to be born as children to such an Amazing Dad. We love you Appa!

## 27

## Practiced Christian faith in Profession

## Georgia Thabitha Alex

When I was told to write a note about Appa for his book, I was clueless, because for us usually our day starts and ends with a conversation with our Appa, and every time when we talk even if it's a short call, he will try to instill some life lessons to it and always tried to quote some bible verses to it, which gives a firm foundation to his statements. So, writing about Appa will be more like writing about our lives so far. We are blessed to say that he influenced us to that extent it our lives.

Like all selfless parents, our Appa and Amma raised us by giving everything in their lives. And the most precious gift they shared with us was to trust in God in every situation. It is this gift that is helping us to be positive and understand a bigger picture after Appa's departure (bible says, "He makes all things good for those who love him" Roman (8:28)) some other qualities which he always enforced were love, compassion, empathy, ability to forgive and forget. Instead of lecturing about these qualities he tried to practice these qualities in his life. From childhood he made a point very clear to us that the privileges we are getting like a shelter, family or food were not expected to be taken for granted at any point of time; and if you see people who are less fortunate to have these things around you, you must share your blessings with them. This was a strong message he gave to us when we were kids and he made sure that we were doing it with our friends and people around.

Of course, while practicing Christian faith especially in his profession there were many situations where his Christian decision may look stupid
and useless from worldly eyes. As a youngster, I was not too keen about such incidents and whenever such discussions used to happen, I often asked Appa the reason for the same. Appa always used to smile and say, 'I know this might not be the smartest decision, and they may think that I am being stupid, but if this gives peace and calm to the other person, I am happy to take it' and I am sure my God will not allow us to be any less because of this and instead He will give us more and more'. Now as we are adults we know how difficult it would have been to Appa to take such decisions even when we clearly knew that it's just giving privileges to other or their selfishness; but what he said was very true, God made all things beautiful for our Appa till the very end of his life.

I really can't comment much about Appa's professional life as there are only few incidents I can recollect now. One is that, when his clients visit our home for legal discussion. We used to stay back in our rooms. Before his clients leave, if Appa feels that they are close to his heart and if he thinks that they have a spiritual life, Appa will call Amma and us and will introduce us to them. Sometimes the guest would start talking some good things about Appa which we all love to hear, but Appa would try to stop them politely as he and Amma strongly believed that Glory should only be to God. In some other incidents if the guest is going through some personal problems, he will pray for them before they leave, and he used to include the same prayer request in our family prayers everyday until it was answered by God. Apart from that he always tried to keep his professional life away from family. Appa simply used to love to be around us.

As we grew up and parted our ways for education, job and family he was missing these moments and whenever we visit home for short holidays, Appa used to schedule his work so much to make sure that he is getting ample time with us and to talk to us. But there was one regret he used to say that, which we three daughters disagreed to immediately. It was when he says 'I couldn't spent much time with you all during your school days, as I was too busy with my work life'. We all used to disagree with that discussion, because from our childhood, Appa was there for us every time and everywhere that we needed him. We miss Appa so much and we know this vacuum will be there with us always.

I miss his conversations which always starts with 'Ahh kutta parayeda'. For every problem we used to discuss with Appa, his response would be that 'Nothing to worry! God has taken care of it already' which gave us so much confidence. Christian faith is about hope and we know we will meet our Appa again in the other shore with our Heavenly Father.


ALoving, Caring and Reliable Personality.

- Thomas Nalonnusseril



At Pampady - along with family, Late E. A. George, Late Annamma George, Susan Varghese and George Zachariah.


Alex in his childhood - with his baby sister Susan.


During his college days, with sister and brother.


Soon after their Marriage - Alex and Maya


With their first born, Theja.


At the marriage of his friend Mr. Boban P. Abraham.


Indore Days and following years.


Early years of legal practice.


Alex and Maya with their three daughters.


Brother lawyers - Adv. Alex George and
Adv. George Zachariah at the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala.


With script writer Late Mr. P. R. Chandran.


At a National Seminar held at Agartala.


At one of the conference and research trips to Delhi.


Meeting generations - with his first granddaughter.


With Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. R. Hariharan Nair Sir and Madam.


With the better half at one of the evenings after work.


At the SAARC Law Conference at Delhi.


At the National Seminar at Agartala.


A light moment from a public function.


At the occasion of the betrothal of their youngest daughter.


Familytime!!


Alex, Xavier and Juniors at the Marriage of their Junior Adv. George Joseph and Mrs. Deepa George.


Adv. Alex and Xavier give gifts to
George Joseph and Deepa.


At the marriage of his friend's daughter.


Break time. Adv. Alex and Xavier.


Hearty Onam at Ernakulam.


[^0]:    Adv. Alex George: Ormakal, Anubhavangal
    (Reminiscences)

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